

City of Gaithersburg

COMMUNIQUE

**Green Week in
Gaithersburg
April 16 - 21**

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Municipal Election – November 6, 2007

Did You Know...

...your vote matters? In recent Mayor and City Council elections, some candidates were elected by as few as nine votes. However, less than one-tenth of registered voters in Gaithersburg actually came to the polls. Consider these statistics:

- 72% Percentage of U.S. Citizens Registered to Vote Nationwide
- 82% **Percentage of Gaithersburg Citizens Registered to Vote**
- 55.3 % Percentage of U.S. Registered Voters who Voted in 2004 Presidential Election
- 9.66% **Percentage of Gaithersburg Voters who Voted in 2005 Gaithersburg Mayor & City Council Election**

3 million – Number of votes separating George Bush and John Kerry in the 2004 presidential election

9 – Number of votes separating candidates in a recent Gaithersburg City Council election

Elections for three City Council seats will take place Tuesday, November 6, 2007. Any City resident who is currently registered to vote in Montgomery County may vote in the City election. Separate registration is not necessary. However, County voter records must reflect your current address.

To be eligible to vote on November 6, residents must be registered to vote by October 8, 2007. Residents may register to vote by contacting the Montgomery



County Board of Elections at 240-777-VOTE and asking for a State of Maryland Voter Registration Application. Applications also are available at Gaithersburg City Hall, 31 South Summit Avenue.

For more information about City of Gaithersburg elections, please contact the City Manager's Office at 301-258-6310 or visit the City's website at www.gaithersburgmd.gov. ■

Public Invited to Provide Input on FY 2008 Budget

The Mayor and Council will hold a public hearing on the FY 2008 budget on Monday, May 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 31 South Summit Avenue.

Budget work sessions will be held shortly thereafter. The dates were not fixed

as of the publication date of this *Communiqué*. The sessions will be held in the Council Chambers so they can be televised live. Additional information will be available on the City's website at www.gaithersburgmd.gov.

The FY '08 budget is scheduled for adoption in early June. The adopted budget will take effect July 1, 2007. For more information call 301-258-6310. ■

CITY OFFICIALS

GAITHERSBURG

Mayor
Sidney A. Katz

Council Vice President
Stanley J. Alster

Council Members
Geri Edens
Henry F. Marraffa, Jr.
John B. Schlichting
Michael A. Sesma

City Manager
David B. Humpton

The *Communiqué*,
a newsletter for the
City of Gaithersburg,
is produced by the:

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Gaithersburg City Hall
31 S. Summit Ave.
Gaithersburg, MD 20877
301-258-6310
www.gaithersburgmd.gov

Gaithersburg Green Week

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they make a difference throughout the community by cleaning up and beautifying local streams, schools, parks, and homeowners association common areas. The City is looking for individuals or organizations to host a volunteer event. Students can also earn student service learning credits.

For more Green Week information please contact the Environmental Affairs Division at 301-258-6310 or e-mail environment@gaithersburgmd.gov. ■

Gaithersburg Green Week April 16 – 22, 2007

The City of Gaithersburg invites you to participate in activities that celebrate and improve the environment during Gaithersburg Green Week, April 16 through 22. In addition to being fun and educational, it's also a great way for school children to earn service learning credits while making our community a better place to live.

Monday, April 16, 6:15 – 7 p.m., Environmental Awards Ceremony

Gaithersburg encourages citizens to nominate an individual, business, school, homeowners association, or scouting troop for the Sixth Annual Environmental Awards. Each year, the Mayor and City Council and Environmental Affairs Committee recognize individuals and groups for their commitment to the environment. Nomination forms are available on the City's website at www.gaithersburgmd.gov/environment. Deadline for submission is Friday, April 1.

Tuesday, April 17 – Arbor Day

Children at a local elementary school will participate in an Arbor Day program emphasizing the importance of trees in our community. During the assembly, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources will present the City with its 18th annual Tree City Award and the Mayor will donate a tree to the school.

Wednesday, April 18

"Cheers for Volunteers!"

Green Youth Service Project

Green volunteer activities go hand-in-hand with the environmentally friendly characteristics of the Youth Center at Robertson Park. The Gaithersburg Youth Club (GYC) is a program designed specifically for middle school students to provide safe, well-supervised and fun activities for participants during their off-school hours. Students will earn service learning hours by volunteering in the youth butterfly garden and helping to clean up streams and parks.

Thursday, April 19, Lug-a-Mug Day

Instead of using a disposable cup, lug-a-mug while you're out and about! Each

time you reuse your mug that means one less cup in the landfill. Each cup you save from the landfill is another cup that doesn't need to be made, lessening the strain on forests and the environment. Many local vendors may provide a beverage discount for lugging a reusable mug.

Friday, April 20 Change a Light Day

Save energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by changing at least one light in your home with an ENERGY STAR qualified light bulb today. To save the most energy and money, choose one of your highest use fixtures, such as the kitchen ceiling light, the living room lights, bathroom vanity, and outdoor porch or post lamp. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, if every American home replaced just one light bulb with an ENERGY STAR, we would save enough energy to light more than 2.5 million homes for a year and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions of nearly 800,000 cars.



Students paint "Chesapeake Bay Drainage" on storm drains.

Saturday, April 21, 9 a.m. - Noon Community Volunteer Day

Community volunteering takes on new meaning during our Community Volunteer Day on Saturday, April 21 from 9 a.m. until noon. Join hundreds of volunteers as

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MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

MEETINGS

Mayor and Council Meetings are held the first and third Monday and Work Sessions are held the second and fourth Monday of each month, unless otherwise noted. They begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Mayor and Council Chambers located at City Hall, 31 South Summit Avenue, Gaithersburg. Call 301-258-6310 to confirm.

Upcoming Meetings

March 5 and 19
April 9 and 16
May 7 and 21
June 4 and 18

Upcoming Work Sessions

March 12 and 26
April 23 and 30
May 14 and 29 (Tuesday)
June 11

PLANNING COMMISSION

MEETINGS

Planning Commission Meetings are held in the City Council Chambers at 7:30 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month unless otherwise noted.

Upcoming Meetings

March 7 and 21
April 4 and 18
May 2 and 16
June 6 and 20

A complete list of Mayor and City Council and Planning Commission meetings is available under Calendar of Events at www.gaithersburgmd.gov. Meetings can also be viewed live on the City's Cable Channel 13, and via streaming video on the website. Minutes of past meetings are available on the website. For more information call 301-258-6310.

Gaithersburg, Montgomery County Join Together for Community Volunteer Day

Strengthen your family while you strengthen your community at Community Volunteer Day, Saturday, April 21. This year the City of Gaithersburg has partnered with the Montgomery County Volunteer Center to host a series of volunteer projects throughout the community. And since it falls during Gaithersburg's Green Week, we'll be celebrating Gaithersburg Community Cleanup Day, Earth Day, Volunteer Recognition Week and Family Volunteer Weekend – all at one time!

Held in conjunction with the Montgomery County Volunteer Center, individu-

als, families, schools, clubs, organizations, homeowners associations, and businesses are encouraged to join the effort. A number of local non-profits will be identifying projects in need of help that day. To give you an idea of what you might be involved with, past projects have included gardening at a local elementary school, sorting and organizing clothes at a clothing center, and painting the interior of a transitional home. Community clean-up projects are also being coordinated. All projects are approved for Student Service Learning credit.

To register or to get more information on a volunteer project call the City of Gaithersburg Human Services Division at 301-258-6395 x2 or the Montgomery County Volunteer Center at 240-777-2600 or visit its website at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteer. For more information on Gaithersburg's Green Week and environmental volunteer activities contact the City's Environmental Affairs Department at 301-258-6310 or visit the City's website at www.gaithersburgmd.gov/environment. ■

All Aboard the Art Train Befriend a Train, Befriend the Arts!

Gaithersburg is excited to announce "All Aboard the Art Train," a public art project designed to enrich the entire community. Combining Gaithersburg's railroad past, present and future with a unique program that literally brings the arts into the streets, the Art Train project will showcase local talent, increase the profile of Gaithersburg's public arts program, and provide an opportunity to connect the business and cultural communities.

We hope to have as many as twenty locomotives and cabooses gracing Gaithersburg streets, all custom decorated by professional artists. Their strategic placement in front of private businesses and

public facilities will encourage residents to traverse the City in search of the unique displays. Appropriate marketing activities will ensure maximum exposure.

Look for a community-wide debut of the trains at the City's annual 4th of July Celebration, where these works of art will be on display at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds. The train cars will then be dispersed for viewing throughout the community.

The Gaithersburg Arts & Monuments Funding Corporation (GAMFC), a non-profit organization supporting the arts in Gaithersburg, is currently seeking sponsors for this exciting project. Befriend a loco-



motive or caboose for prominent display in front of your place of business. Or join as a supporter and help with such needs as photography, graphic design and clear coating. There are many ways to get involved!

Check the Art Train website frequently for visual updates, artist and sponsor profiles, and special activities. For more information, contact Cultural Arts Director Denise Kayser at 301-258-6394. www.gaithersburgmd.gov/arttrain. ■

City offices will be closed on Monday, May 28 in observance of Memorial Day

Please join us on Wednesday, May 30 at 11 a.m. at Christman Park for the City's official observance and tribute to those who serve. The ceremony will include a solemn wreath-laying ceremony. Christman Park is located at 304 W. Deer Park Road. For more information call 301-258-6350 or visit the City's website at www.gaithersburgmd.gov.



Engineering the City's Future

Part of a series profiling Gaithersburg's elected officials.

by Jeanne North

"I grew up in Boonton, a little town in New Jersey named in 1761 for its Colonial Governor, Thomas Boone," says Stanley J. Alster, Vice President of the Gaithersburg City Council. It was a small town where everybody knew everybody. Growing up, I couldn't go anywhere in town without being recognized, and if I got into any trouble, the news would be home before I got there."

Alster started early on what would be a long career in engineering and technology. In Boonton High School, where he earned a scientific diploma, he and a friend borrowed a lawnmower engine and designed and built a working go-cart. Later they rebuilt a junked motorcycle that the friend used in college.

Along the way he earned a BS degree in Electrical Engineering, an MS in Engineering Management, a professional Quality Engineering license, and completed graduate level programs at both Penn State and the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard.

Most of the families with businesses in Boonton took part in some way in city affairs, he says, and the small town atmosphere was clearly to his liking. When he, his wife, Ann Lynn, and their children Melissa and Michael, moved to Maryland, the question of where to put down roots came up. "We searched and searched and when we found Gaithersburg we knew we were home – we know we made the right decision because Gaithersburg is still where we want to be."

Feeling that he had an obligation to give back to the City, Alster served on various committees, and

then on the Planning Commission. When Ed Bohrer became the mayor and his Council seat became available, Alster initially declined the offer but was pressed into "temporary" service on the City Council. Twenty one years later, Alster is still on the Council.

Any regrets? "No," says Alster without hesitating. "As long as I feel that I'm contributing to making Gaithersburg even greater, I'm happy representing and serving the people. At times it is challenging to listen to all of the input and concerns from residents and the business community and then separate out what is really important in order to determine what would be best for the City. I know that we are not going to please everyone. But it is important to listen, have the vision to see beyond today, and identify what



Stan Alster (C) with Mayor Sidney Katz and Senator Jennie Forehand

"It is important to listen, have the vision to see beyond today, and identify what would be best for the City for the long term."

would be best for the City for the long term."

Over the years, Alster and the Council have dealt with a myriad of challenging issues such as the homeless crisis nearly 20 years ago, which resulted in the City's creation of the transitional Wells/Robertson

House; and growth and its impact on quality of life that led to the creation of Mixed Use Development (MXD) Zones, which allow developers a lot of flexibility in housing types and uses. MXD was a new approach with little precedent in Maryland or anywhere else. Time has demonstrated that despite the ups and downs of the economy, says Alster, most would agree that Gaithersburg's inclusive approach that led to the creation of the MXD zone and other policies addressing growth and the quality of life has been "incredibly successful."

After 36 years with the Department of Army as a civilian in leadership positions in engineering design and production, Alster went on to spend 10 years with the American Red Cross, where, until his retirement a year ago, he was Senior Director for Business Performance Improvement. Along the way he had plenty of opportunity to hone the negotiating skills so necessary in City management. In a nod to his love of technology and things electronic, he represents Maryland on the

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Police Duty: Patrol and Protect

Part of a series of profiles about City departments and employees.

by Jeanne North

At six feet three inches and 240 lbs., Officer Matt Bellard is not easily overlooked. When he gets out of his Gaithersburg Police patrol car to approach a vehicle he has stopped, he is something of a giant, someone not to be trifled with. A relative newcomer to the department—after studying criminal justice at the University of Baltimore and deciding that this was the profession he wanted to pursue—he spent two years on the U.S. Capitol Police before coming to Gaithersburg two years ago. Now he works four 12-hour shifts each week patrolling the City.

In a patrol car on a recent evening duty shift “ride-along,” Officer Bellard explains the equipment in his vehicle: computer, where the whereabouts of each and every patrolling officer is displayed; radio, for instant communication; the GPS system; a Taser (a gun that discharges electric shocks); weapon, and, yes, officers do wear bullet-resistant vests. During a shift, Officer Bellard patrols the City, continually driving, never the same route, but covering different areas. Together with the Montgomery County Police (with whom the department shares responsibility for services), the Gaithersburg Police Department provides coverage 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.



Officer Bellard readies for patrol in Gaithersburg.

What comes up on a duty shift? Could be anything, of course, depending on the day of the week and time of day or night, even the weather. But on a recent ride-along, admittedly a “quiet” night, there was one warning for a couple in a deserted parking lot, another for a motorist who barely slowed down for a stop sign, an investigation of an assault (victim interviewed, assailant had left the scene), checking out a 911-hang-up call (always a concern), and numerous checks of license tags, which can be done by just running the tag numbers on the police car computer.

Selection of Gaithersburg police officers is a rigorous process, says Bellard, and is followed up with about six months of training at a certified police academy, five

days a week, eight hours a day. There they get physical training—running, obstacle courses, calisthenics—plus target practice, defensive tactics, handcuffing, driving, law, “Fourth Amendment stuff,” says Officer Bellard, “about search and seizure law, so you know what you can do legally out here,” plus local and Maryland state laws. At least once a year (four times for target practice), officers do further refresher training at a facility nearby.

Settlers in colonial Maryland, where lawbreakers were most likely brought before a justice of the peace, would be stunned to see the sophisticated policing system of today’s Gaithersburg. From the department’s 15 sworn officers and two civilians in 1988, the roster has grown to 50 sworn officers and three civilians in 2007, reflecting the population growth from an estimated 37,000 in 1988 to nearly 59,000 today.

Now the City is aiming to increase the department even more: a change to a “beat” plan, with officers responsible for certain geographic areas instead of patrolling the whole city, will require the eventual increase to 63 sworn officers by FY 2010. Augmenting the department are citizen members of various Neighborhood Watch groups, our “eyes and ears” as Officer

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Gaithersburg Police Department

Chief: Mary Ann Viverette

Mission: We are committed to protecting life and property, improving the quality of life for all people, and protecting City interests by:

- Working with our community, City departments and other government agencies.
- Developing and implementing proactive strategies.
- Growing to keep pace with our community.
- Maintaining a workplace which promotes equal employment

opportunities, respects employees as individuals and fosters teamwork.

Location: 14 Fuls Corner Avenue, Gaithersburg n 301-258-6400 n police@gaithersburgmd.gov

What They Do: The nationally-accredited Gaithersburg Police Department shares responsibility for services with the Montgomery County Police, providing coverage 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The Department responds to calls for service as necessary, and utilizes community action teams, when

appropriate, to solve problems and deal with issues affecting the safety of all City neighborhoods. The Department also provides philanthropic support to the community through charity fundraisers, participating in community meetings, offering lectures, and providing services such as security surveys.

Sworn Officers: 50

FY 2007 Budget: \$5.8 million (80% for personnel, 10% operating, 10% capital outlay)

Retiring Police Chief Mary Ann Viverette

by Jeanne North

Just out of the Academy of the Holy Cross in 1973, Mary Ann Nesline became the first female Emergency Medical Technician on the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad because, she says, "It just seemed like an exciting thing to do." Then, in the fall of 1974, when Montgomery County started a dispatcher school, she adds, "I was in that first class," answering emergency calls.

After 3 ½ years, she moved on to the Sheriff's department, where she got to sit in a courtroom and observe officers, attorneys and judges in action. Eventually, she saw the ad for the Gaithersburg Police Department, came here to apply, and when she did, she recalls, "they looked at each other and said 'Oh my gosh, she's answering all these questions right, we're going to have to hire a woman!'"

Twenty-seven and a half years later, Gaithersburg Police Chief Mary Ann Viverette is retiring, with many accomplishments behind her: Immediate Past President of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), its first female president; Commissioner with the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA); Chair of the Standards Review and Interpretations Committee; and a Police Department that has been nationally accredited since 1993.

Chief Viverette holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Law Enforcement from the University of Maryland and a Master's Degree in Human Resource Management, also from the University of Maryland. She graduated from the FBI National Academy, Session 155, in 1988.

Now, on the point of leaving the Department and Gaithersburg, she says she is most proud of "the professionalism of the Department.



Mary Ann Viverette (right) is accompanied by Officer Willie Delgado (left) and Corporal Chris Vance for Gaithersburg's National Night Out activities.

ment. I think we have an excellent reputation in the community, and an excellent reputation among our peers." ■

Police Duty: Patrol and Protect

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Bellard puts it. They keep an eye out for anything out of the ordinary and alert the Police Department.

The City Police Department has been nationally accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies since 1993. It is up for reaccreditation

in April of 2007. The department also won the National League of Cities "Livability Award" for its citywide community policing efforts. ■

Police Seek Neighborhood Liaisons

The Gaithersburg Police Department believes that it is important to maintain open lines of communication between the police and the communities we serve. The Gaithersburg Police Community Services Office attempts to establish lines of communication through various community groups, homeowner's associations, and Neighborhood Watch organizations. It is

the goal of the department to have a means to share information and concerns with every neighborhood within the City.

Some neighborhoods, however, do not currently have a Neighborhood Watch or a homeowner's association. The Department is reaching out to those neighborhoods as well. If you reside in a neighborhood with-

out a homeowner's association or Neighborhood Watch organization and are interested in acting as a liaison between your neighborhood and the Police Department, please contact Sgt. Rudy Wagner, Community Services Officer, at 301-258-6400 or via e-mail at rwagner@gaitersburgmd.gov. ■

Engineering the City's Future

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Information Technology and Communications Steering Committee of the National League of Cities. He also represents the City on the Council of Governments Transportation Planning Board.

Along with looking out for Gaithersburg interests, Alster looks forward to traveling with his wife and enjoying their seven grandchildren. He is still having fun with things technological. For

hobbies, he indulges a passion for photography, recently moving from 35mm film to digital photography and has graduated from rebuilding a junked motorcycle as a teenager to restoring classic Ford Mustangs. He is now working on his third Mustang. ■

Summit Hall: Historic House, Hallowed Home

Part of a series of articles profiling Gaithersburg's neighborhoods and historic sites.

by Jeanne North

For Frances Kellerman, recalling tales of her home on South Frederick Avenue is sheer pleasure. "I've lived here since 1947," she says. "My mother and father, Frank and Zoe Wilmot, bought this farm in 1936. It was auctioned for \$13,500, and at that time there were 135 acres. That was Depression time, and that was a lot of money. I guess they thought it was a good buy, and they'd been wanting to get a farm."

Mrs. Kellerman pulls out a picture and says, "This is my Mother, that's me, and this is my cousin. He was an amateur photographer, and he set his tripod up over here and then went and got in the picture." That's the way the Smokehouse looked back in the 1930's, she says. Lloyd Miller, the photographer, took many photos of the buildings on the farm, many of which are now part of a vast trove of material in the archives of the City of Gaithersburg.

The original Summit Hall farmhouse, built of logs sometime between 1807 and 1812, had just four rooms. Later, under the ownership of James Dezelm (later spelled DeSellum), the house doubled in size. Mrs. Kellerman takes a visitor through the house and points out where the original four rooms end and the additional front rooms begin.

The next generation of DeSellums added drama to the history of the house. In June of 1863, during the Civil War, Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart occupied Rockville, arrested the pro-Union John T. DeSellum, and, en route to Gettysburg, "relieved" him of horses, forage and food supplies at Summit Hall. The next summer, when Gen. Jubal Early was planning an attack on the Capital city, he made his headquarters in the DeSellum home and in the process, took the remaining livestock and searched the house for weapons. But the soldiers missed \$3,000 in cash and bonds hidden hastily in the voluminous skirts of Sarah DeSellum.

After the deaths of J.T. DeSellum and his sister, Sarah, the saga of the venerable property continued. The new owner of Summit Hall Farm was Ignatius Thomas Fuls, who took on the task of modernizing

Summit Hall, bringing it into step with the Victorian era. He attached two three-sided bays to the front of the house, added a porch and installed a decorative eyebrow window on the third floor between the bays.

After her Mother died in 1980, Kellerman says, the farm had to be sold and the City of Gaithersburg bought the property. "If the town hadn't bought it, it would have gone to a developer.



Gaithersburg residents enjoy a stroll through Summit Hall Farm circa 1937

So I was delighted when the town decided to buy it and I think they've made a very nice park here (Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm). It's for the benefit of all people," she says; "They're surrounded by apartments and they have to have someplace, and I think it's wonderful."

As to the importance of Summit Hall Farm to the City of Gaithersburg, Kellerman is unhesitating: "It's about the most historical thing they have." ■



Zoe Wilmot, Frances Kellerman and Lloyd Miller in front of the Summit Hall Smokehouse circa 1930's.

The People of Summit Hall and Early Gaithersburg

Real People, Real Places, Real History

To learn more about Summit Hall visit the Gaithersburg Community Museum for a special exhibit, on display through June, 2007.

Gaithersburg Community Museum

- Permanent & Rotating Exhibits
- Outdoor Exhibits
- Model Train Layout
- Gift Shop

**Open Thursday – Saturday
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

9 South Summit Ave. ■ 301-258-6160
www.gaithersburgmd.gov/museum

Gaithersburg in Spring

Bohrer Park – A Fun-Packed Place for Children and Families

by Alex Stavitsky-Zeineddin

After a cold and snowy winter, kids and teens blistering with cabin fever are itching to get out and play. A perfect place to use some of that pent up energy is right here in Gaithersburg. Skating, hiking, golfing and water activities await all at Bohrer Park. With the latest research showing the tremendous benefits of outdoor activity and play for kids, having these kinds of facilities in our own backyard is a definite bonus.

Located at Summer Hall Farm, the park was named for former Gaithersburg Mayor W. Edward Bohrer, Jr. Fifty seven acres of rolling hills, two ponds surrounded by wetlands, three large picnic pavilion areas with adjacent fields, and walking trails appeal to nature lovers. Volleyball and horse-shoe areas also make-up part of the landscape.

Of greatest interest to the ever-growing number of skateboard aficionados is the 12,300 square foot Skate Park. Youth Services Director Tim Smith, who coordinates youth activities for the City, says that the addition of the skate park to Bohrer Park's amenities happened because young students presented their case to the Mayor and City Council. The facility was approved

in 2000, and the Gaithersburg skate park became the first in Montgomery County.

Opening on March 27, and staying open until late October, the smooth asphalt arena is also used by in-line skaters and BMX bicyclists. Gaithersburg runs a shuttle bus beginning in late spring, taking youth to and from Lakelands Middle School to the facility. Youth services staff is there daily to provide supervision, support and pad rentals.

For kids ages 7-13 who want to learn the basics or advanced inline skating and skateboarding, classes are offered June through August. Pre-school kids have a chance to use the skate park during "Things that Roll," an activity where children and their families play in the skating area with tricycles and scooters. They are scheduled for Saturday, April 21 and Saturday, May 19 from 10 a.m. to noon. There is a nominal admission fee.

Also opening soon is Gaithersburg's popular miniature golf park, an 18-hole facility that includes waterfalls, streams and ponds. It opens weekends May 5 through June 17, then daily through August 26, then weekends again through October 14.

Children's birthday parties and corporate outings are popular at the golf park, which is also wheelchair and stroller accessible.

Memorial Day Weekend signals the opening of the Gaithersburg Water Park, an inexpensive way to spend weekends and summer days. There are two large pools with areas that include



a double water slide and a splash pool for younger children. The slides are inviting to the thrill seekers, ranging from an enclosed 185 foot tube slide to the slower flume slide, considered more of the "beginners" slide. Food is available for purchase and there are shaded picnic areas and lounges.

Seasonal and daily passes for all activities are available to residents and non-residents. Fees are nominal, making the seasonal activities at the park accessible to all. For large scale picnics, the pavilion areas can also be rented.

For hours, admission fees and more information call 301-258-6350 or visit the City online at www.gaithersburgmd.gov. Bohrer Park is located at 506 South Frederick Avenue. ■

